



Our School Gardens



Kimihia Primary School's gardening journey began in Term 2 of this year when the Envirokids Group was formed. Kimihia Primary School is a decile 2 school in Huntly. We have 14 classrooms (soon to become 15) and are lucky enough to have large field areas and play grounds. The Envirokids group consists of 20 Year 5-8 children and we have seven main goals we are working on:

- 1, To apply the attributes of a Kimihia Kid to learning experiences beyond the classroom
- 2, To enrich the teaching and learning programmes at Kimihia in line with the New Zealand Curriculum.
- 3, To encourage community involvement through gardening based activities
- 4, To create school vegetable/edible food plots that can be used as a teaching and learning resource
- 5, To further develop the top bank as a play area, a place to encourage wildlife and a teaching and learning resource
- 6, To assist the caretaker with maintaining other existing gardens around the school
- 7, To document learning through the use of ICT tools.

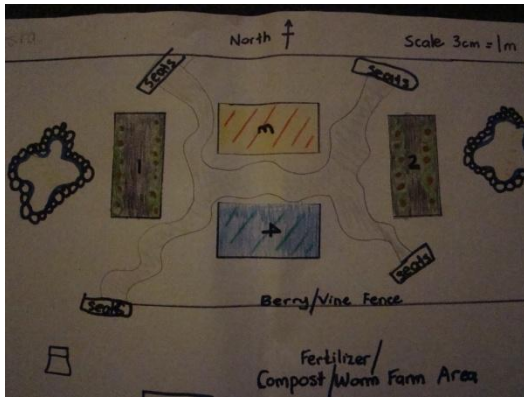
We have entered the Tui School Garden Challenge as goal number four is all about developing our school gardens - a perfect fit!

We have placed a lot of emphasis on reducing/re-using/recycling so have collected the following items so far to use in our garden:

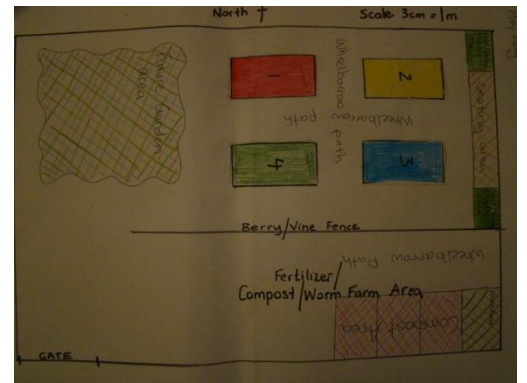
- Old tyres for creating mini raised garden beds.
- Old corrugated iron which we will build our compost bins out of.
- Enamel bath tub which will become our worm farm.
- Egg cartons/used seed trays/punnets for seed sowing.
- Old plastic drums to create mini garden beds, water storage containers and tool storage containers.
- Plastic bottles to use as mini glasshouses and to create watering systems.
- And this is just the beginning of our list of ideas!

Our school receives free fruit each day as part of the fruit in schools programme and the Envirokids have noted a lot of fruit waste in our school bins so they have devised a bucket system to collect fruit/vegetable waste for our worm farm/compost bins which will be put in place over the next term.

We have all discussed ideas about designs for the school gardens and have had to learn about adapting our ideas as plans become reality - we had to shift our garden location due to a new carpark being built at school so we have had to factor in a sloping section and a large tree into the garden area but Kimihia Envirokids can cope with anything.



Here are some of our original plans (we were all given measurements to work with):



This is what we thought about drawing our designs:

- *"It was tricky drawing to scale, you had to think about how big everything is in real life and then convert this"* Amy
- *"I wanted to have ponds and paths and bridges in my design but this isn't always practical or it could even be dangerous"* Connor
- *"It was really cool to be able to put our ideas about the gardens on paper and talk about it with each other"* Kirsten

We have been documenting our progress with the gardens since the beginning of term 2 through our wiki: www.kimihiaenvirokids.wikispaces.com and will continue to do so as we carry on our journey.